



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Wisconsin schools to welcome teachers from Japan

Teachers to visit 33 Wisconsin schools during Sept. 22 to Dec. 11 stay

MADISON—Thirteen teachers from Japan will begin visits with host schools in early October, sharing their knowledge of Japanese language and culture with an estimated 26,000 students throughout the state.

“Since 1997, Wisconsin and Japan have enjoyed an education connection that has placed 128 Japanese teachers in schools throughout the state,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster.

“These visiting teachers contribute to Wisconsin’s efforts to internationalize the curriculum and provide our students with language and cultural experiences that will help them succeed in the global community.”

The exchange program is coordinated by the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Education Association Professional Development Academy and funded by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Teachers arrived from Japan on Sept. 22, spending their first weeks in Madison, Minocqua, and Lac du Flambeau schools as a group. The teachers have varied backgrounds, including physical education, mathematics, instructional technology, special education, Japanese language arts, history, social studies, and agriculture education. They teach at the elementary, junior high, and high school levels in their homeland.

Beginning Oct. 7, each teacher will be hosted by schools throughout the state and teach units on Japanese language and culture. The teachers also will examine how Wisconsin schools meet the needs of their diverse student populations, how schools use new technologies, how the curriculum is designed and tested, and how Wisconsin families live. The Badger State is one of only a handful in the United States selected to host the teachers, who will spend Sept. 22 through Dec. 11 here.

Unlike other programs, where visiting teachers are mostly in classrooms, the Japanese Ministry of Education program encourages teachers to attend school board meetings, talk with business leaders

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and parents, and visit after-school youth programs. Additionally, the teachers from Japan will try their hands at community work and help host families with chores at home.

When these teachers depart from Wisconsin, they will have been exposed to a full range of educational experiences. They will have been inside many more board rooms, computer centers, art rooms, and principals' offices than the average Wisconsin citizen. They will have listened to young immigrants who don't yet speak English well, played soccer and basketball with urban and rural school children, and had discussions with students at every level of schooling.

In addition to their 33 host schools in 16 districts, the teachers from Japan will be special guests of Memorial High School, Jefferson Middle School, and Muir Elementary School in Madison, as well as Lakeland Union High School, Minocqua Elementary, and Lac du Flambeau Elementary in the Lakeland area.

"Expanding an international perspective in our schools is vital for our future economic development and prosperity in an increasingly global society," Burmaster said. "We welcome these teachers from Japan and the contributions they make by sharing their international perspective with our students, teachers, and communities."

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NOTE: A list of teachers from Japan and their school assignments for October and November follows.

Japan –Wisconsin Education Connection

2005 School District Assignments

Ryugen Inagi

Elementary Special and Physical Education Teacher, Shizuoka
Oct. – Manitowoc School District
Nov. - Lloyd Street Global Education Elementary School, Milwaukee

Michiko Ito

Elementary Teacher, Yamagata
Oct. – Walworth School District
Nov. – Elmbrook School District, Brookfield

Yumiko Iwasaki

Elementary Science and Music Teacher, Kyoto
Oct. - Lake Country School District, Hartland
Nov. - Alexander Mitchell Integrated Arts Elementary School, Milwaukee

Tetsuya Katayama

High School English Teacher, Kyoto
Oct. – Osceola School District
Nov. – Menasha School District

Masahiro Kimura

Junior High School Mathematics Teacher, Sendai
Oct. – Baraboo School District
Nov. - Green Bay Area School District

Takeshi Mino

Junior High School Social Studies Teacher, Kagawa
Oct. - Ladysmith-Hawkins School District
Nov. - Humboldt Park K-8 School, Milwaukee

Terumi Nakamura

Elementary Special Education Teacher, Gifu
Oct. – Pardeeville Area School District
Nov. - Vieau K-8 School, Milwaukee

Masatomo Nakandakari

Junior High School Mathematics Teacher, Okinawa
Oct. - St. Mary and St. Michael Schools, Cato
Nov. - Sixty-Fifth Street Elementary School, Milwaukee

Shin Ogihara

High School Japanese Language and Literature Teacher, Tottori
Oct. - Southern Door County School District, Brussels
Nov. - Madison Metropolitan School District

Takashi Shoji

High School History Teacher, Yamagata
Oct. – Sevastopol School District
Nov. - Edgewood Campus and High School, Madison

KanshuTakahashi

Elementary Teacher, Fukuoka
Oct. – Holmen School District
Nov. – Wauwatosa School District

Yasuyo Takenaka

Elementary Teacher, Nara
Oct. - Northern Ozaukee School District, Fredonia
Nov. – Platteville School District

Jin Yakabi (Group Leader)

High School Agriculture and Instructional Technology Teacher, Okinawa
Oct. - Southern Door County School District, Brussels
Nov. - Milwaukee School of Languages